

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5                   1. An access monitoring base unit, comprising:  
                  a wireless piconet front end; and  
                  a database to contain at least one entry relating to a  
presence of a monitored person within a monitored area.
- 10               2. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,  
wherein:  
                  said wireless piconet front end utilizes a BLUETOOTH  
protocol.
- 15               3. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,  
wherein said at least one entry comprises:  
                  unique person identifying information.
- 20               4. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 3,  
wherein said at least one entry further comprises:  
                  time stamp information relating to at least one of an  
entrance and an exit of said monitored person in said monitored area.
- 25               5. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,  
further comprising:  
                  an automatic dialing unit adapted to automatically call a  
particular telephone number when said monitored person either enters or  
exits said monitored area.

6. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,  
further comprising:

a remote access module adapted to allow remote access to  
said database.

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7. A personal wireless piconet identifying device,  
comprising:

a wireless piconet front end; and

a unique wearer ID code relating to an identity of a person  
10 associated with said personal wireless piconet identifying device.

8. The personal wireless piconet identifying device  
according to claim 7, wherein:

said wireless piconet front end utilizes a BLUETOOTH  
15 protocol.

9. An access monitoring system, comprising:

a base unit, comprising:

a wireless piconet front end, and  
20 a database to contain at least one entry  
relating to a presence of a monitored person within a  
monitored area; and

at least one personal wireless piconet identifying device,  
comprising:

a wireless piconet front end, and  
25 a unique wearer ID code relating to an identity  
of a person associated with said personal wireless  
piconet identifying device.

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10. The access monitoring system according to claim 9,  
further comprising:

5 a wireless piconet entrance/exit monitor to provide  
communications between said base unit and said at least one personal  
wireless piconet identifying device.

11. A method of monitoring a presence of at least one  
person within a monitored area, comprising:

10 establishing a wireless network between a personal wireless  
piconet identifying device associated with a particular monitored person  
and an access monitoring base unit; and

noting a presence or absence of said particular monitored  
person within said monitored area based on said established wireless  
network.

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12. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one  
person within a monitored area according to claim 11, wherein:

20 said wireless network includes a wireless piconet  
entrance/exit monitor between said personal wireless piconet identifying  
device and said access monitoring base unit.

13. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one  
person within a monitored area according to claim 11, further comprising:

25 noting time stamp information relating to an entrance or an  
exit of said monitored person in said monitored area.

14. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one  
person within a monitored area according to claim 11, wherein:

30 said established wireless network utilizes a BLUETOOTH  
protocol.

15. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 11, wherein:

said step of establishing said wireless network establishes said wireless piconet on a temporary basis.

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16. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 15, wherein:

said step of establishing is periodically performed.

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17. Apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area, comprising:

means for establishing a wireless network between a personal wireless piconet identifying device associated with a particular monitored person and an access monitoring base unit; and

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means for noting a presence or absence of said particular monitored person within said monitored area based on said established wireless network.

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18. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, wherein said means for establishing said wireless network further comprises:

a wireless piconet entrance/exit monitor between said personal wireless piconet identifying device and said access monitoring base unit.

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19. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for noting time stamp information relating to an entrance or an exit of said monitored person in said monitored area.

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20. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, wherein:

said established wireless network utilizes a BLUETOOTH protocol.

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21. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, wherein:

said means for establishing said wireless network establishes said wireless piconet on a temporary basis.

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22. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 21, wherein:

said means for establishing said wireless network periodically re-establishes said wireless piconet.

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